



# PH Hometown News

Volume 3, Issue 2

Mar-Apr-May 2002

## PH POCs

- **AFMOA DSN 297**  
Col Deneice Van Hook 4280  
Lt Col George Prascsak 4269  
Maj Lisa Pegues 4216  
MSgt Mark Mellinger 4340
- **ACC: DSN 574**  
Lt Col Bill Courtney 1268  
SMSgt Theron Reed 1294
- **AMC: DSN 779**  
Col Rex Brennan 6336  
CMSgt Rich Johnson 6336
- **Space Command**  
Col Don Coates 692-6810  
MSgt Phillip Davis 276-0648
- **AFMC**  
Col Judith Holl 787-6728  
SMSgt Steve Henry 785-2510 X323
- **AETC:**  
Col Tom Stedman 487-6536  
CMSgt Bill Hollowood 554-4153
- **USAFE: DSN: 314-480**  
Lt Col Fred Kelsey 7670  
MSgt Therese Huss 2004
- **PACAF: DSN: 315-449-**  
Lt Col Paul Rehme 2332 X 269  
SMSgt Mary Gill 1269
- **AFSOC:**  
Lt Col Richard "Joel" Williams  
MSgt Brent Fenton 641-5625
- **Reserves**  
SMSgt Patricia Tooley 497-0600
- **ANG: DSN: 278-**  
Lt Col Cynthia Cogburn 8556  
SMSgt Shannon Wright 8556
- **USAFSAM: DSN: 240-**  
Col Diana Barnicott 2269  
CMSgt Rich Hollins 3766
- **CFM** CMSgt Jeff Strout  
Andrews AFB 857-6720 or  
Bolling AFB 297-0235

## Public Health—The Best of the Best!

These are the annual Public Health Award winners for 2001. They were announced at this years Team Aerospace Operational Solutions Course (TAOS) in San Antonio Texas back in March.

### PH Airman of the Year: (AETC)



**A1C Alexander Mosquero-Melo**

### Public Health Officer of the Year: (USAFE) Capt Todd J. Weaver

(Picture Not Available)

### Colonel Cleveland L. Parker Award: (PACAF— Now AFSOC)



**MSgt Brent Fenton**

### PH Staff NCO of the Year: (ACC)



**SMSgt Theron Reed**

### Public Health Staff Officer of the Year: (ACC) Major Matt Wyatt

(Picture Not Available)

# ACC Nominees:

## PHO of the Year: Capt Kirk Winger

Capt Winger is the Public Health Flight Commander/OIC Immunization Clinic at Mountain Home AFB. His previous assignments include: McClellan AFB, CA (Apr 98 - Jul 99); Mountain Home AFB, ID (Aug 99 - Present) Deployed OEF (Sep 01 - Mar 02). His family includes 1 Fish named Tiger. He enjoys bull riding, scuba diving, hunting, fishing, snow machining, and quiet walks along the beach (kidding about the last one).



## PH Staff Officer of the Year: Major Matt Wyatt (Picture Not Available)

Major Wyatt is Aerospace Medicine Commander at 65 MDG Lajes Field Azores. His previous assignments include: Moody, AFB 2 years; USAFSAM 2 years and Lajes, AFB ~2 months. He is married to Christine and they have two daughters Stephanie 9 years old and Ali 6 years old. He enjoys as time allows: Salt Water fishing and Scuba diving.

## PH Staff NCO of the Year: SMSgt Theron Reed

He is the Command Public Health Superintendent at HQ ACC, Langley AFB, VA. His previous assignments include: DoD Dog Center Lackland AFB, Texas (1979-1983); Andrews AFB, MD (1983-1984); AMRL, WPAFB, OH (1984-1987); Izmir AB, Turkey (1987-1989); Shaw AFB, SC (1989-1992); Elmendorf AFB, AK (1992-2000); HQ ACC, Langley AFB, VA (2000-Present). He is married to Vivien and they have a son - Brandon (19) and a daughter - Danielle (14). He enjoys hunting, fishing and reading.



**PH NCO of the Year: TSgt Karen Horvath** She is the NCOIC, Public Health Element Lajes Field, Azores. Her assignments include: Williams AFB, AZ - (22 Apr 88-29 Mar 91); Andersen AFB, Guam - (28 Apr 88- 15 Jan 93); Kunsan AB, ROK - (31 Jan 93-21 Jan 94); Shaw AFB, SC - (22 Feb 94- 10 Feb 97); Randolph AFB, TX - (13 Feb 97-8 Nov 00); Lajes Field, Azores - (3 Dec 00-Present). She is a single parent of a 4 year old daughter, Jordan and a 6 year old Dalmatian named Tommy. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading and shopping.



**PH Airman of the Year: SrA Lisa Host** SrA Host is a Public Health Journeyman at Dyess AFB, Texas and has been there for over 2 years (her first assignment). She is married to her husband Scott and they have a cat named Bob. She enjoys reading, crafts, bowling, watching movies, and spending time with her husband. As with many other ACC personnel...she has deployed and looks very professional in those desert BDU's.



## AMC Nominees:

**PHO of the Year: Lt Anthony Davis** Public Health Flight Commander (2000 – Present), 22<sup>nd</sup> Aeromedical-Dental Squadron (22ADOS), McConnell AFB, Kansas – Responsible for managing all programs included in the Immunization and Public Health flight. Additionally serves as the base Medical Intelligence Officer and base Epidemiologist. He is married to Jeane M. Davis, formally from Lincoln Illinois and they have two children: – Ryan A.S. Davis, (15 yrs) and Aleeza L.M. Davis (12 yrs). His interests outside of family and work include: Boating, Water and Snow Skiing, Riding, and Church activities.



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## PH NCO of the Year: SSgt Sean Reiling

He is the NCOIC of Community Health Management Element within the Public Health Flight at Grand Forks AFB, ND. His previous assignments include: Little Rock, Arkansas - 5 Years (1993-1998); and Chanute AFB, Illinois for 2 Years (1991-1993). He has been married to Christine for 9 years and they have a daughter Allison 2 y/o and a Son Evan <1 y/o. His hobbies include Fishing, Hunting, School and working MS Access. If you need anything ~ please ask! He is looking for a special duty assignment - next year!



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## ARC Nominees:

### PHO of the Year: Capt Fazal Hussain (ANG)

Capt Hussain is a Public Health Officer with the 106 MDS/NYANG. His assignments include: MAFB-5 years and 106 MDS/NYANG-1 year. He is married to Aneela Hussain, M.D., Attending Physician and Assistant Professor, Family Practice at the University Hospital, they have two daughters, Sahar and Samra, ages 5 and 7 years. He enjoys photography and he has a huge collection of photos ranging from Ground Zero to omnipotent flowers. He likes gardening, flying and biking on the board walk. He serves on the Home Land Security (HLS) and International Health Specialist (HSI) programs. In the past served on the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board (AFRAB). In civilian life, Clinical Assistant Professor at the State University of New York. Most memorable assignment: Serving at the Ground Zero.



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### PH Airman of the Year: SrA Kelly McGrory

SrA McGrory spent numerous additional hours of her own time managing the various programs which contributed to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron receiving a "Mission Ready" designation during the Health Services Inspection. SrA McGrory has been awarded the AF Achievement Medal for her contributions to the 143<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing and 143<sup>rd</sup> Medical Squadron. She was also selected to represent the 143<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing for the National Guard Association of Rhode Island Airman of the Year 2001.





# AETC Nominees:

**PHO of the Year: Capt Jane Ridky, DVM** She is the Public Health Element Chief/Infection Control Officer for Columbus AFB, MS. Her previous assignment was to Sheppard (Aug 98-Dec 99). She is married (as of Dec 01) to Chip Ridky, another DVM, Lt Col, ANG (PHO at 101st, Bangor ANG, ME). Her hobbies include: whitewater canoeing/kayaking, hiking/camping, wilderness emergency medicine trainer and veterinarian for sled dog races. She would like to send out a special thank you to the PH family for putting up with her. She will be joining the ANG as the PHO for Pease ANG, NH (April 02). Please keep in touch at DSN:852-2342; jane.ridky@nhpease.ang.af.mil or itsusdocs@yahoo.com. In her other life she will be a state veterinarian setting up a food safety /security program for the state of Maine. She tells folks "Always Drink Upstream from the Herd" and - "Riders In The Sky, - Think Left and Think Right, - Think Low and Think High, - Oh the THINKS You Can Think Up If Only You Try!" - Dr Suess



**PH NCO of the Year: MSgt Peter Flynn** He is the Superintendent, Public Health and Immunizations/Allergy Flights at Sheppard AFB, TX. His previous assignments include: Minot AFB, ND (1982-1988); Izmir Turkey (1989-1991); Holloman AFB, NM (1991-1993); Kadena AB, Japan (1993-1995); Command Enlisted Aide, Vandenberg AFB, CA (1995-1997); Senior Enlisted Aide to VCSAF, Bolling AFB D.C. (1997-1998); Medical Readiness NCOIC Lakenheath AB, UK (1998-1999); and Public Health, Lakenheath AB, UK (1998-2000). He is married to Tracy M. Flynn and they have two children: Toria Brittany Flynn, 6 and Spencer Riley Flynn, 4. His hobbies include: snowboarding, skydiving, snake collecting, and tasting fine wine and beer!



## PH Airman of the Year: A1C Alexander Mosquero-Melo

He is a Public Health Journeyman at Sheppard AFB, Texas. This has been his only assignment since coming into the Air Force in Dec 1998. He is married to Yamile Garcia-Baez and they have two children: 8 year old daughter Lieseth Mosquera-Garcia and 3 year old son Miguel Angel Mosquera-Garcia. They also have two pets; a cat named LULU and a hamster named Carmelita. His hobbies include running, playing soccer and dancing.



## 11th Wing Nominee:

### PH NCO of the Year: TSgt Joyce Cowels

TSgt Cowels is the NCOIC, Public Health at Bolling AFB, D.C. Her previous assignments include: Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. (Oct 83 - May 88); RAF Lakenheath (Jun 88 - Jun 96) and Bolling AFB, D.C. (Jul 96 - Present). She is married to Philip Cowels of Freehold, NJ (for 18 yrs). They have four daughters - Alexandria - 16; Stephanie - 10; Ruqaiyah - 5; and Faatimah - 3. Her interests include: cooking, reading and further increasing knowledge in her religion during her off time. She also enjoys playing computer games. "My real love is sewing for my family and friends. "

# AFMC Nominees:

## PHO of the Year: Capt Alisa Iriye (Picture Not Available)

Capt Iriye is the Deputy Public Health Flight Commander at Eglin AFB, Florida. She is married (6 yrs), to her husband John and they have 2 kids: Sam (3 years), Alexis (1 year). She enjoys playing with her children and reading books. She has been deployed recently to PSAB, Saudi Arabia. Captain Alisa Iriye is an incredibly versatile Public Health Officer stationed at the largest Air Force base serving five wings. She closely interfaced with the Air Force Special Operations Command on bioterrorism in developing a two hundred thousand dollar decontamination package. When West Nile Virus was detected on base, Capt Iriye rapidly responded with a multimedia presentation and was selected by the Wing Commander to be the base TV News spokesperson covering the crisis. Capt Iriye is a key player in the Department of Defense's West Nile Virus surveillance research that impacts sixty-one tri-service installations. She researched and acquired medical intelligence in support of OPERATION BRIGHT STAR's Southwestern Asia deployments. Capt Iriye's in-depth efforts included multi-language food safety information for third country nationals during the deployment.

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## PH Staff Officer of the Year: Major Jay Fuller

He is the Chief, Food Safety Branch at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, Texas and has been there since 2000. He is the Subject Matter Expert on Food Safety Issues and is the course supervisor for the Advanced PH Officer course. He entered the AF in 1995 and was the Chief of PH Flight at Hill AFB, Utah until 1998 when he entered an AFIT program at University of California at Davis. He is married to Janet and they have a daughter Shelby (9), and a son David (7). He enjoys playing golf, tennis, skiing, and fishing.



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## PH Staff NCO of the Year: TSgt Wesley Walker

He is a Master Instructor with the Force Health Protection Branch of the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine at Brooks AFB, Texas. His assignments include: Barksdale AFB, (1984-1987); Langley AFB, (1987-1998), USAFSAM, (1998-Present). He has been married to Kristy (also a TSgt) for the past 11 years and they have two daughters: Ashley-16 and Brittany-13. His hobbies include backpacking, downhill skiing, and home brewing. He has been featured in a previous edition of Hometown News under the USAFSAM section.



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## PH NCO of the Year: TSgt David Sherry TSgt

Sherry is the NCOIC Public Health Flight at Eglin AFB Florida. His assignments include: Seymour Johnson AFB NC, (1983-1986); Cannon AFB NM, (86-89); Howard AFB Panama, (89-90); Travis AFB CA (90-94); Incirlik AB Turkey, (95-96); and Eglin AFB Florida (96-02). He is married to Tina K. Sherry (for 27 years), they have one son Jeremiah David Sherry (age 24), Graduating from the University of West Florida in April of this year. They have 3 adopted pet children, Kahn, Joshua, and Fred, all 3 are rescued Basset Hounds. He enjoys travel and spending time with his family.



# SPACECOM Nominees:

**PHO of the Year: Capt Pauline Lucas** Capt Lucas is the Public Health Flight Commander at Patrick AFB, Florida. Her previous assignments include: Kadena AB, Japan (Apr 98 - Jul 01) and Tinker AFB, OK (Jan 96 - Apr 98). She is single with no kids. Her pet's name is Pei-peï (very cute 3 year old Shih-Tzu). She enjoys Scuba diving, hiking, sight-seeing, travelling (international). Having a great time in the middle of a barren desert supporting Enduring Freedom. Living in tents, sleeping on sagging cots, and breathing in dust everyday, what more could you ask for!

**PH NCO of the Year: SSgt Melissa DeMarrias** SSgt DeMarrias is the NCOIC, Occupational Health at Patrick AFB, Florida. Her previous assignments include: Peterson AFB, CO (2 Yrs) and Patrick AFB, FL (4 Yrs). She is married to Troy DeMarrias and they have two children: Staci—9, and Alec—6. Her interests include: being involved with church activities, spending time at the beach with her family, playing volleyball. “I feel very honored and privileged. It has always been a goal of mine to be nominated for the Colonel Cleveland L. Parker Award.

## PH Airman of the Year: A1C Nancy Wall

She is a Public Health Apprentice (in the Occupational Health Section) at Vandenberg AFB, CA. This has been her only assignment since joining the Air Force (last 18 months). She is a single Airman who enjoys reading, spending time with my family, playing soccer, working out, traveling, and of course shopping!!!! She loves her job because she gets to work with the most wonderful, hardworking people in the Air Force.



# USAF Academy Nominees:

## PH NCO of the Year: SSgt John Kortess (Picture Not Available)

Staff Sergeant Kortess assumed responsibilities of the 4E0X1 Functional Manager during a short-notice deployment of the permanently assigned manager and successfully managed manning issues for the entire United States Air Force Academy Command. He led plague surveillance and control efforts during a local area outbreak, rapidly identified and directed eradication of high-risk rodent populations, and implemented control efforts that prevented human cases.

## PH Airman of the Year: SrA Elizabeth Woodland

SrA Woodland monitored the 810<sup>th</sup> Medical Operations Squadron's Employee Health Program reaching a 99% compliance rate for 7 months. She reviewed over 100 occupational health hearing exams and identified problems with patients not being referred to Public Health for required hearing conservation education. She instituted changes that increased referrals to Public Health by 100% during a 5 month period.





## PACAF Nominees:

### PHO of the Year: Capt Monica Selent

Capt Selent

Is the OIC, Public Health at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Her assignments include: Tyndall AFB (1 and 1/2 yrs), Kunsan AB (1 yr), and Elmendorf AFB (1 and 1/2 years). She is single with one old grouchy cat. She likes the outdoors— hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter. She also studies karate when not TDY. Her office considers her TDY to Elmendorf. In the past 20 months, she has been gone TDY 7 times. (Not that she is complaining). “I joined the AF to travel, and now I'm Delta's back-up navigator for the Anchorage to Salt Lake City run!”



### PH NCO of the Year: MSgt Brent Fenton

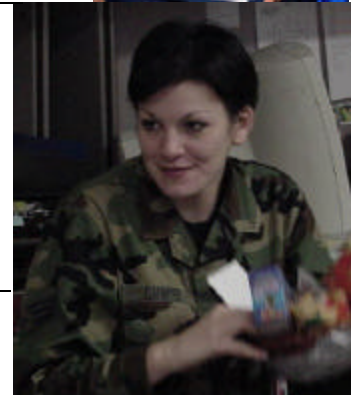
MSgt Brent

C. Fenton is the NCOIC, Public Health, Hurlburt Field, FL. He serves as the superintendent managing materiel and personnel resources, and providing personal and career guidance to 8 enlisted. MSgt Fenton was born and raised in Heuvelton, New York. He is married to Marita Con-ui and has three children; Camille (13), Joshua (11), and Zachary (7). He enjoys traveling, the beach, snorkeling and spending time with the family. He is actively involved with Cub/ Boy Scouts and youth sports programs.



### PH Airman of the Year: SrA Colleen Dan-

**myer** SSgt (S) Danmyer is a Public Health Journeyman at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Her assignments include: Misawa AB, Japan- 3 years and WPAFB-1 month. She has one daughter, Chloe, age 3 and a dog named Bear. She enjoys playing with Chloe, Camping, Hiking, Soccer, Sightseeing, and Gardening.



## AFSOC Nominees:

### PH NCO of the Year: SSgt Stephen Garrett (Picture not available)

SSgt Garrett is the NCOIC, Public Health Element 353 Special Operations Group, 353 Operations Support Squadron, Kadena AB, Okinawa. His previous assignments include: McGuire AFB, NJ (92-98); Kunsan AB, Korea (98-99); Travis AFB, CA (99-01); and Kadena AB, Japan (01-Present) He is unmarried and a single dad to an awesome little six year old girl, Kelsey Garrett. Most of his off-duty time revolves around his child. “When I'm not cleaning house or hanging out at the park, I can normally be found reading, watching a movie or blowing things up on my PS2.” “I recently completed my first 'real' deployment to a very austere environment. Pay attention to what they teach us at Brooks; I needed it and then some!”

### PH Airman of the Year: SrA Lance Bondurant (Picture not available)

SrA Bondurant is from the 16th Medical Operations was handpicked to fill the Operational Medicine section as interim program manager. During this time he cleared a 6-month logjam of deployment forms in just 2 months in accordance with the new Southern Command policy. He assisted in eliminating a 2-year backlog of medical record documentation, volunteering 40 hours of off duty time. He contributed to the section receiving no write-ups during a major inspection.

# USAFE Nominees:

**PHO of the Year: Capt Todd J. Weaver (Picture Not Available)** Captain Joseph T. Weaver created Incirlik's Injury Surveillance program highlighting dangerous alcohol-related trends in his support of Population Health Improvement. He is a shrewd resource manager and eliminated unnecessary tuberculosis skin testing for contractors saving seven thousand dollars annually. Capt Weaver enrolled five hundred sixty-one patients into a diarrhea study and identified one hundred sixty thousand dollars in lost workdays due to gastrointestinal disease. He furnished detailed medical intelligence to OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM medics and assessed the snakebite danger and anti-venom availability in forward deployed OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM's theater of operations. Capt Weaver provided preventive medicine support for two thousand seven hundred OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM sorties that dropped one point nine million Meals Ready-to-Eat and refueled strike fighter aircraft.

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## **PH NCO of the Year: SSgt Dante Pawa (Picture Not Available)**

Staff Sergeant Pawa played a critical role in protecting the 52<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing mission while taking the lead during a food borne illness investigation. Within four hours of the first patient notification, he singularly identified the source of the infection. His extraordinary job knowledge and prompt action ensured that further cross-contamination did not occur, kept emergency services open, and sorties on track. His actions were described as a "great service" by the affected unit's commander.

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## **PH Airman of the Year: A1C Grant Price (Picture Not Available)**

A1C Prince's singular efforts offset a critical 120 day loss of two officers, three NCO's and two airmen. He protected over 50,000 consumers at three 52<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing marquee events with zero foodborne outbreaks. He conducted 33% of deployment line briefings for 5 consecutive months, briefing over 1000 troops. This outstanding performer was selected by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing as a Below-the-Zone Senior Airman.







**RETIREMENTS: SMSgt Steve Henry** (Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio) submitted and was subsequently approved for a waiver to STOP LOSS and retired on 17 May 2002.

**SMSgt Mitch Potter** (Keesler AFB, MS) was also approved for a waiver to STOP LOSS

and will retire 20 June 2002.

**Lt Col Michelle Marshall** had a packaged approved as well and will retire on 14 June 2002. We will miss these great family members as they start their new chapters in the book

of life...we wish them great success and a happy retirement! If I missed someone's retirement or award...please let me know. I enjoy spreading the word of our achievements and special days to the rest of our Public Health family.

**DATELINE Vandenberg AFB CA:** Airman of the Month for Medical Group for Feb 02: SrA Marlon Robles, Public Health Journeyman (Food Safety/Sanitation and Entomology) at Vandenberg AFB, CA since joining the AF in 1998. He is married to Kari and they have a son Eric (4 y/o) and a son Ryan (2 y/o), with 2 cats (Precious and Smokey). His hobbies include: Playing sports, playing with kids in the yard, and watching TV. SrA Marlon Robles educated 40 base

newcomers on local area medical threats and how to safeguard against them. He identified hazardous food recall items; quickly worked to isolate and remove items from shelf and painstakingly updated immunization documentation for 296 individual Medical Group workers. His significant self improvement included enrolling in three Allan Hancock College classes... pursuing CCAF degree in Public Health Technology. He unselfishly volunteers at base youth

center; mentoring youth in numerous sports programs. Way to go SrA Robles!

**DATELINE Vandenberg AFB, CA:** A1C Rose Ann Bugay was selected SrA Below the Zone and was also selected as the 30th Medical Group Airman of the Month for Mar 02. TSgt Parry Malae was selected 30th ADOS and 30th MDG NCO of the Quarter for first quarter 2002. Way to go Team Vandenberg!



The days ahead can be trying for all of us. I would hope that each of you take this upcoming merger as a positive challenge and a new adventure. The job is what you make of it. If you have a positive attitude and go into this with the idea to learn something new...this

## Final Thoughts...

merger can be a golden opportunity for each of you to experience new (and sometimes exciting) challenges. It is critical during these times to pay special attention to our people. We must watch for excessive levels of stress and frustration and do everything we can to reduce these potential barriers to our success. We must stress attention to detail in our training efforts and help each other learn the new tasks (even those tasks that have been redesigned in the process). We must also emphasize that while some may be at a slight advantage for promotion testing (those testing for SSgt-MSgt)...each individual can take the steps necessary to reduce any potential advantage by studying the references early on. There will be a SKT

waiver for the 2003 cycle but the SKT will be back in 2004. This means the PFE will be counted twice (PFE and SKT). This is important to understand. If you test poorly on the PFE (say a 35...) then you would get a 35 on the SKT portion...if you score well on PFE...then your overall score will be good. Bottom line: study the references early and often to improve your score. Remember, everyone will be tested on new material in 2004. If everyone hits the books (PFE and SKT...CDCs), then no one should be at a disadvantage come test time. I look forward to a larger PH family (almost 1100 strong in Nov 02). Supervisors: Take good care of our people! They deserve it!